

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tubular-element rotating assembly, comprising:

a chain drive assembly;

a continuous chain adapted to be driven by the chain drive assembly to contact and rotate a tubular element; and

a rack-on-rack assembly adapted to adjust an effective length of the chain which contacts the tubular element.
2. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the rack-on-rack assembly includes a fixed rack and a parallel movable rack movable between locked and unlocked positions relative to the fixed rack and when in the unlocked position movable longitudinally relative to the fixed rack to thereby adjust the effective length of the chain.
3. The assembly of claim 2 wherein the rack-on-rack assembly includes a locking-unlocking cam pivotal about a pivot axis.
4. The assembly of claim 3 wherein the pivot axis is parallel to the racks.
5. The assembly of claim 3 wherein the pivot axis is perpendicular to the racks.
6. The assembly of claim 3 wherein the rack-on-rack assembly includes a lever for pivoting the cam about the pivot axis.
7. A tubular-element rotating assembly, comprising:

a chain drive assembly;

a continuous chain adapted to be driven by the chain drive assembly to contact and rotate a tubular element; and

a cam-operated assembly adapted to adjust an effective length of the chain which contacts the tubular element.
8. The assembly of claim 7 wherein the cam-operated assembly includes a cam member pivotal about a pivot axis, the chain drive assembly includes a drive unit,

and to adjust the effective length of the chain, the cam-operated assembly moves the drive unit in a movement direction.

9. The assembly of claim 8 wherein the pivot axis is perpendicular to the movement direction.

10. The assembly of claim 8 wherein the pivot axis is parallel to the movement direction.

11. The assembly of claim 8 wherein the cam-operated assembly includes a lever for pivoting the cam member about the pivot axis.

12. A spinner chain adjustment method, comprising:

moving a chain-drive-sprocket rack relative to a chain-driven-sprocket rack from a first position to a second position; and

cam locking the chain-drive-sprocket rack in the second position to the chain-driven-sprocket rack and thereby adjusting the effective tubular engaging length of a tubular spinner chain.